

**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 29, 2006**  
**Room 470 Governor's Office Building-Jefferson City, MO**  
**[www.mmpec.ded.mo.gov](http://www.mmpec.ded.mo.gov)**

Members in Attendance: Chairman Dalton Wright, Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce, Senator Frank Barnitz, Craig Borchelt, Loretta Charleston, Kent Thomas, Robert Welling and Representative Terry Witte

Members Absent: Senator Chris Koster

Guests in Attendance: Pat Kerr, Missouri Veterans Commission Ombudsman; Chris Leport, Missouri Bankers Association; Craig Overfault, Missouri Bankers Association; Bill Ratliff, Missouri Bankers Association; Larry Sexton, Sellers Sexton; Alan Stark, Missouri National Guard; Rachel Wheeler, Whiteman Air Force Base Liaison; Michael Nichols, Missouri Department of Economic Development; Krista Zurkamer, Missouri Department of Economic Development

Chairman Dalton Wright called the MMPEC November 29, 2006 meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. Chairman Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all in attendance for their support.

The board members, supporting staff and guests made introductions.

The minutes from the October 18, 2006 were introduced and reviewed. The corrections noted were as follows: On page 2, paragraph 1, line 1 addition of Chief of Staff Robert Hagedorn; page 2, paragraph 4, line 1 legislature changed to legislation; page 2, paragraph 4, line 3 legislation will change to legislature; page 3, #2 addition of Congressman Ike Skelton's Chief of Staff Robert Hagedorn.

Kent Thomas moved. Robert Welling seconded the motion to accept the October 18, 2006 minutes with said amendments. All approved, motion carried.

**Technology Park at Fort Leonard Wood**

Chairman Dalton Wright introduced our first speaker of the day Larry Sexton. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Sexton for coming and talking with the Commission today.

*Larry Sexton*

Larry Sexton thanked Chairman Wright for the introduction and the Commission members for the opportunity to speak with them. The University of Missouri Technology Park at Fort Leonard Wood is a combined effort of the Army, University of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Economic Development. The vision of the Tech Park is to

be a world-class, competitive, high technology research park attracting exceptional companies.

The Tech Park is attractive to many companies for various reasons:

1. A close proximity to the U.S. Military and the University of Missouri.
2. A diverse, skilled and highly motivated workforce ready to learn and grow.
3. A secure, clean workplace environment with easy interstate, air and rail access.
4. A rural community setting which provides great quality of life and education opportunities for employees and their families at affordable cost.

The Tech Park has completed the initial Phase One and Two. During Phase One the University of Missouri Tech Park received a long-term lease for 62 acres from the Army. The University and DED contributed each \$1.6 Million to fund the park development. The Phase Two of the Tech Park has up to 250 acres per environmental assessment for the park. The Tech Park also supports non-contiguous areas with the development of new lease and option terms available to the outside. The Park consists of two buildings. Building One is 18,000 square feet and in full service with offices, classrooms and labs. The building is 100% occupied and consists of 70 employees. Building Two is 18,000 square feet and in full service with larger company spaces and two secure rooms. The building is 100% occupied and consists of 75 employees. Both buildings consist of a variety of tenants; some of which include Army Research Lab, Army Terrain Visualization Center, Army TPIO-TD, BAE Systems, Battelle, EG&G, GEC, Knowledge Sharing Systems, Lincoln University Liaison, Missouri Enterprise, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Tech-Masters, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Systems and University of Missouri Liaison.

The benefits of the Tech Park are rich and plenty for the university, tenants and state:

1. The University gains expanded technology from research labs to industry.
2. The University gains quality work experience opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.
3. The University gains high quality, in-state career opportunities for alumni.
4. The state gains economic growth and jobs.
5. The state gains an improved quality of life for everyone.
6. The tenants gain close proximity to the Army, DOD and international military communities and University.
7. The tenants gain a lost cost of entry.
8. The tenants gain a short or long term lease.
9. The tenants gain skilled labor availability.
10. The tenants gain security.
11. The tenants gain transportation accessibility.

The fiscal and economic impact from the Tech Park is sufficient for the state also. The fiscal impact is for each dollar invested a return of \$1.27 to the state occurs. The economic impact is for each dollar invested a return of \$35.19 in state economic growth occurs. The Tech Park has currently filled both infrastructures and needs to continue the park expansion. The Tech Park is in Phase Three currently with the expansion and is hoping for additional funding through the University, DED and MDFB. Mr. Sexton will be meeting with MDFB shortly in hopes of funding possibilities.

*Kent Thomas*

Kent Thomas asked what is it the Tech Park does?

*Larry Sexton*

Larry Sexton assured the Commission the importance of the close proximity at Fort Leonard Wood for companies interested in contracts with the Department of Defense. The companies have the science and technology research and capabilities available to them on the park and are able to apply the research into their own programs.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright commented on the success of the Tech Park and its effects on the community at Fort Leonard Wood. This is evidence is the recent ranking of 3<sup>rd</sup> that Fort Leonard Wood received in the “2006 Military Communities of Excellence Quality of Life Study” in the Expansion Management, May 2006. Fort Leonard Wood had an average of 91% with its successors receiving 93% and 92%. Some of the percentage statistics include 82% schools, 88% housing, 44% spousal employment and 99% child care.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler asked if the security at Fort Leonard Wood put any restrictions on the Tech Park.

*Larry Sexton*

Larry Sexton replied that the ID entrance is relatively effective and doesn't put any limitations on the Tech Park.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling added the 10<sup>th</sup> ranking of the Whiteman Air Force Base with the 88% average.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler commented on her high hopes for 2007 with the anticipated addition of new housing to Whiteman. Mrs. Wheeler also congratulated Mr. Sexton on the success of the Tech Park and hoped to bring some of the ideas discussed today to Whiteman Air Force Base.

*Larry Sexton*

Larry Sexton agreed with Mrs. Wheeler sentiments and added now that the model of a Tech Park has been designed and proven to be applicable the process will be much more straightforward. Mr. Sexton continued by discussing his thoughts on BRAC and his uncertainty of another occurring. The Fort Leonard Wood training base picked up the engineer school. Training and education facilities have more difficulties in closing. Whiteman has 4000 acres of opportunity available. Whether or not BRAC engages it is important to have an agenda and commends the Commission on seeking a consultant. The consultant and DED will assist the Commission on the economic impact of Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman have on the state.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce congratulated Mr. Sexton and Fort Leonard Wood on the achievements of the Tech Park. Vice Chairman Pearce asked about the current status for funding the expansion of the park and offered the services of the Commission in support of the Tech Park mission.

*Larry Sexton*

Larry Sexton informed the Commission of do additional funding being received since the initial start up of \$1.6 million. Larry Sexton left some additional resource information for the Commission.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked that Krista Zurkamer disseminate the material amongst the Commission members.

### **Pay Day Lending Bill**

Chairman Wright introduced our second speaker for the day Bill Ratliff. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Ratliff and his colleagues for joining us and discussing the Talent Pay Day Lending Bill.

*Bill Ratliff*

Bill Ratliff thanked the Commission for inviting himself and his colleagues today to discuss Pay Day Lending. Pay Day Lending is a concern on and around many military bases in the United States. Unfortunately troops are a perfect target for these lenders. In some cases the Department of Defense has revoked security clearances due to problematic issues set forth by lenders. The Bill itself is too broad and this is the reason so many banks would put motions in play in order to protect themselves. Some of there current programs would not be offered if the Bill should happen to pass like the over draft protection service. The Department of Defense is tasked with writing the regulations to set in play with the Bill. Mr. Ratliff strongly feels all of these problems may be remedied by appropriate education on financial management. There was a self interactive CD distributed among the bases referring to appropriate ways of managing your money.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler commented that at Whiteman Senior Officers and below are required to take a financial class with spouse. Ms. Wheeler also confirms the CD availability.

*Bill Ratliff*

Bill Ratliff reiterated his opinion of education being vital in financial management. Mr. Ratliff did comment on not knowing what service members where included in the Bill

*Loretta Charleston*

Loretta Charleston commented on the Active Duty Guard and Reserve Members being grouped as Active Duty.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce asked if Mr. Ratliff had any recommendations to which Missouri Legislation could do to correct the areas in question.

*Craig Overfault*

Craig Overfault suggestions include preempting state laws and apply equally to all military.

*Bill Ratliff*

Bill Ratliff reiterated the huge problems this Bill would mean to banks. Banks would have to implement stringent guidelines and require full disclosure.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce commented on this Bill being more discriminative towards the military.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling asked what the percentage of unsecured loans made in Missouri was.

*Bill Ratliff*

Bill Ratliff did not have the specific numbers at this time but could relay the information at a later date. The loans in question are quick and no credit checks being conducted.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling asked what usury laws would come in affect.

*Craig Overfault*

Craig Overfault advised the usury law wouldn't apply to everything. Mr. Overfault asked the Commission what type of solicitation traffic occurs on bases.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler confirmed that solicitations were a definite problem at Whiteman.

*Bill Ratliff*

Bill Ratliff reaffirmed the banking communities working relationship with Senator Johnson. If no progress has been made the next step will be Congressman Skelton in hopes to remedy.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling suggested the possibility of the Department of Defense writing regulations that will diminish the impact of legislation itself.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler expressed her interest in having the commander signing off on all troop loans because in many cases there are already resources in play to support the troops.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling added the pay schedule of the military could be causing some of the dilemmas also.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright reiterated Mr. Welling's sentiments and added this is something currently being worked on to push and increase the pay gap.

*Pat Kerr*

Pat Kerr shared with the Commission specific cases she has worked on dealing with these same problems. Ms. Kerr did commend the bankers on their working relationship with home owners; the military has only experienced 1 out of 16 foreclosures as bank related. A good resource is the usacares.us website.

Chairman Dalton Wright thanked Bill Ratliff and his colleagues for attending the Commission meeting and educating the members on the Pay Day Lending Bill.

### **Education in the Military**

#### *Military Base Hearing on Education Issues*

Chairman Dalton Wright opened the floor to discussion on the upcoming Town Hall meeting at Whiteman Air Force Base on January 17, 2007.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler relayed to the Commission General Biscone's regrets for his absence but had pressing obligations at the base. Mrs. Wheeler also made the corrections of the upcoming Whiteman Town Hall meeting being January 18, 2007 not the 17<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Wheeler introduced to the Commission an article "Commission Working to make Missouri Military-Friendly State" published in the base newspaper **Spirit Times**. There will be a follow up article on the upcoming meeting at Whiteman Air Force Base in January. The Town Hall meeting will give the Commission an opportunity to be recognized and mingle among the members of Whiteman. Mrs. Wheeler asked for any suggestions on the event.

*Pat Kerr*

Pat Kerr suggested having a table set up for materials and where questions could be answered.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling voiced his concerns with the Sunshine Law.

*Krista Zurkamer*

Krista Zurkamer resolved the issue as saying the Town Hall Meeting will not be a sponsored MMPEC event; we are being invited by Whiteman. The meeting would only fall under any open meeting guidelines that Whiteman may have.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright asked if it was the consensus of the members to have an off site Commission meeting prior to the Town Hall meeting on Whiteman.

*Loretta Charleston*

Loretta Charleston suggested due to travel and time limitations we have a dinner prior to the Town Hall at 5 p.m.

The Commission members were in agreement of having a dinner/reception prior to the Town Hall would be more beneficial.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler added the Town Hall would be in the ballroom and set up auditorium style with a table in front. The Town Hall would be informal.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright asked if Mrs. Wheeler knew what type of turnout to expect.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler has contacted the spousal groups with 80 members strong and they are going to make the Town Hall part of their meeting so attendance should be respectable.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright asked what type of dress attire will be required.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler commented that the event will be promoted as 1 on 1 time with the Commission. The Commission meeting dress attire is appropriate.

*Krista Zurkamer*

Krista Zurkamer added DED was in the process of ordering name tags for all Commission members and she will try to have them completed by the meeting date.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling addressed the security issues for the meeting. Mrs. Wheeler will need the social security and room reservation of all members attending.

#### *Progress of Letters Sent to School Superintendents*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce and Robert Welling met with the Superintendent of Warrensburg to discuss the brochure. Both were in agreement of the success of the meeting. The superintendent estimated that 12% of the students in Warrensburg were military connected. According to the current guidelines this doesn't qualify them for much impact aid.

*Loretta Charleston*



Loretta Charleston suggested keeping in mind the Missouri School Board Association Conference for next year publicizing the brochure.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling addressed his interest in inviting someone with expertise in federal impact aid to report to the Commission so the Commission may obtain a clear understanding. Some possible avenues are the Department of Education and/or the Department of Defense.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler advised the Commission of two families in Warrensburg who pulled their children out of school due to the lack of discipline and now the children are being home schooled.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce inquired about what format the Town Hall meeting would be conducted in.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler suggested a panel of the Commission that would entertain question from the audience members or a question box could be used for the subject matter.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce expressed his interest in a less formal manner of answering questions.

*Rachel Wheeler*

Rachel Wheeler advised the Commission the Town Hall is in the initial process of organization and will take all the comments into consideration.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright suggested having some of the MMPEC materials available at the meeting for interested parties.

*Missouri History Test*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce introduced to the Commission possible legislation sponsored by Representative Day involving multiple history tests being taken by students with military families. Vice Chairman Representative Pearce submitted said item in question to the Commission for their consideration.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright advised DED staff to include this documentation on the MMPEC webpage if the item is passed.

*Senator Frank Barnitz*



Senator Frank Barnitz advised the Commission to review the document and submit suggestions to assist Representative Day.

Kent Thomas advised the Commission of the pending bad weather approaching Mid-Missouri. Chairman Dalton Wright assured the Commission we would continue the meeting through lunch so those traveling have adequate time to reach their destination.

### **Funding for Consultant**

#### *Consultant List*

##### *Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright advised on the consultant list the needed addition of Turner and Pollard. Chairman Wright also advised the deletion of BRAC from the title of page and called for any additional members to be included.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked for a motion to affirm this list as the working list of consultants to be considered.

Kent Thomas moved. Craig Borchelt seconded the motion to accept the list of consultants with said amendments. All approved, motion carried.

#### *Funding and Support*

##### *Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright reviewed the list of potential financial support for the funding of the consultant: MDFB, DED, WALC and Committee of Fifty. Chairman Wright asked for the thoughts of the Commission.

##### *Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce encouraged the Commission to consider some local involvement also.

##### *Craig Borchelt*

Craig Borchelt suggested the RCGA in St. Louis as a possibility for local involvement.

##### *Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright asked the status of the support from DED.

##### *Michael Nichols*

Michael Nichols advised the Commission DED's budget currently doesn't include support for a consultant.

##### *Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright suggested we prepare a request for proposal to use as a starting point. We will be able to modify the RFP accordingly.

## **Annual Report 2006**

Chairman Dalton Wright introduced the 2006 Annual Report with its recent additions and corrections and asked the Commission for their input.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce suggested the addition of Education to the Annual Report as a stand alone topic.

*Kent Thomas*

Kent Thomas shared the same sentiments as Vice Chairman Representative Pearce.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked for a motion to add Education as a separate entity in the Annual Report 2006.

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce moved. Craig Borchelt seconded the motion to add Education to the Annual Report 2006. All approved, motion carried.

*Representative Terry Witte*

Representative Terry Witte suggested the final draft of the Annual Report be emailed to the Commission during the editing process.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright suggested the possibility of a December meeting.

*Craig Borchelt*

Craig Borchelt suggested a teleconference in December if needed.

*Pat Kerr*

Pat Kerr informed the Commission of education programs available to Missouri one such program known as the Operation Military Kid.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked if there were any additional corrections to the Annual Report 2006.

*Craig Borchelt*

Craig Borchelt suggested the addition of the Commissions' support and consideration of the Human Resources Command to the Annual Report 2006. The HRC has had great success with a building built at Fort Knox and would be beneficial to Missouri.

The Commission was in agreement to include the HRC in the action plan for 2007.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce addressed his concerns with the wording "funding for additional Missouri state veterans cemeteries".

*Senator Frank Barnitz*

Senator Frank Barnitz agreed and added “continued funding” would be better terminology.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce asked if the Commission wanted to continue to carry the previous action plans completed along with the current year activities.

*Chairman Dalton Wright*

Chairman Dalton Wright suggested have the previous year’s action plan completed and then the current year’s action plan.

*Loretta Charleston*

Loretta Charleston added all the Annual Reports will be posted on the MMPEC website for any additional information needed.

The Commission was in agreement on all the additional changes discussed and suggested the corrections be made and the Annual Report 2006 be emailed out within the week. Chairman Dalton Wright added the tentative date of December 20, 2006 as a meeting but only if needed.

## **Resolution**

Chairman Dalton Wright introduced the Resolution prepared by Robert Welling in support of full federal funding in the 2008 for Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

*Robert Welling*

Robert Welling informed the Commission Resolution would be mailed out to the Senators with their signatures if all were in agreement of their support. Mr. Welling has received feedback from individuals concerned with the federal budget reduction by \$10 billion. This Resolution asks the full funding in the fiscal year of 2008.

*Craig Borchelt*

Craig Borchelt asked for additional information in reference to the Resolution; he was confused to how this effects the Commission and its objectives. Mr. Borchelt voiced his concerns with the Commissions’ support of articles not directly under the action plan set forth by this Commission.

Discussion continued in reference to what falls under the outreach of the Commission.

Chairman Dalton Wright asked if there was a motion to sign the Resolution.

Robert Welling moved. Kent Thomas seconded the motion to accept the Resolution. Motion not carried.

Discussion continued about the terminology of the Resolution.

Craig Borchelt moved the Resolution refine the language to be word specific. Representative Terry Witte suggested tabling the Resolution until a later meeting. Robert Welling withdrew his motion to accept the Resolution.

*Pat Kerr*

Pat Kerr thanked the Commission for having the forsyth to support Veteran issues and added she would pass the Resolution onto the Missouri Veterans Commission Director for additional advice.

### **Other Business**

Chairman Dalton Wright called for any additional business.

*Allen Stark*

Allen stark submitted to the Commission the Annual Report of the Missouri National Guard.

*Representative Terry Witte*

Representative Terry Witte submitted to the Commission the National Conference of State Legislatures "Legisbrief" August/September 2006 issue featuring information on Military Base Realignment and Closure. Copies will be distributed to the members.

*Pat Kerr*

Pat Kerr passed around to the Commission some informational date pertaining to some of the issues of the Department of Safety and Missouri Veterans Commission. Ms. Kerr reported some useful links available in the documents for the Commission to utilize. Ms. Kerr reported on the Veterans Commission efforts this Saturday at Whiteman in getting over 100 reservists into the VA Health System by assisting them with filling out there cards.

*Mike Nichols*

Mike Nichols submitted to the Commission a comment received by a service member regarding the fishing and hunting license in Missouri.

*Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce*

Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce state statute is pay same as everyone else response state statute non out of state cannot grant them full free

Chairman Dalton Wright inquired about official stationary for the Commission and assigned follow up with Krista Zurkamer. Chairman Wright asked for a motion to adjourn.

Kent Thomas moved. Loretta Charleston seconded the motion to adjourn the November 29, 2006 MMPEC meeting. All approved, motion carried.

With no further business Chairman Dalton Wright adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton P. Wright", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

28-February-2007

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Dalton Wright, Chair

Date